

Washington, DC – Today Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) voted for the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Bill, which included several measures that will help our region deal with crime, violence, and youth prevention programs. — “This bill does a lot to make our streets safer and protects citizens of the district and country,” said the Congressman, “Some of the most important provisions of this bill train police officers on how to deal more effectively with violence against women and prevents crime by giving at risk kids services that will keep them off the streets. ”

The Congressman secured \$250,000 for the Upper Darby Center for Family Safety. This program will provide education and support services for families, and in particular women and children (many of whom are immigrants), who have been victims of domestic violence. Among the services offered will be temporary shelter, language assistance and legal services. Due to the diversity in the Upper Darby area, cultural barriers present yet another significant obstacle that women and children who have been the victims of domestic violence in this area must overcome. This will increase awareness of domestic violence through education and the creation of local support groups. It will provide job training programs, assistance to first time home buyers and English as a Second language programs. Ending domestic violence requires more than just intervention at the time it occurs. The victims often need services that go beyond getting them out of a bad situation. They need to know there are resources available to them that will allow them to turn their lives around and get into better housing and find a decent job that will allow them to care for their families.

Moreover the Congressman was instrumental in getting \$100,000 for Delaware County Community College's (DCCC) Institute for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. The DCCC will expand its Institute for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness throughout the Greater Philadelphia five-county region (Chester Delaware, Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware) due to the increased need and demand for its programs. Established in 2006, the Institute offers courses, workshops, and seminars on a variety of emergency preparedness topics through its partnerships with government and private organizations. Its audience includes police officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, municipal officers, school district administrators, other public safety professionals and the general public. The topics covered include law enforcement, fire science administration, medical emergency services, and emergency services. The Institute fulfills the need for national, state, and local initiatives focused on building emergency response systems that enable responders from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines to work effectively together. This marks the third bill that includes additional funding for this community college this year. These first responders are our first line of defense against any attack at home and it is vital we train enough people to be able to do these jobs.

Additionally the Congressman worked to include \$10,000 for Ridley Park Police Community Educational Programs. This will be used to train members of the Ridley Park Police Department in a drug abuse prevention program called “Heroin Alert,” which is presently offered by the New Castle County Police Department in Delaware. Currently, the Ridley Park Police Department offers anti-drug education to 5th graders through the D.A.R.E program, but this will enable them to expand their efforts to include students in the 7th and 8th grades, with Heroin Alert, and then to later offer the program to High School students. It will also allow the Ridley Park Police Department, to stay on the offensive against heroin abuse.

Congressman Sestak fought to include \$400,000 for the Rock School’s Rock Reach program. This will be used to operate and expand the Rock School’s Rock Reach outreach program for at-risk and disadvantaged youths. The program reaches more than 10,000 youth each year in the Greater Philadelphia area. They program offer after-school and in-school education arts programs for students and within inner-city public schools in Philadelphia. It also provides in-school and after-school programs for at-risk youth, aid and assistance in the form of scholarships to underprivileged students, hands-on arts and vocational training, residency programs, and interactive performances designed to improve self-esteem, confidence and motivation to succeed. Programs like this make a huge difference in kids’ lives by giving them something constructive to do during the time of day when they are most likely to get into trouble. They also help insure that at-risk kids do not fall through the cracks of our society and get the help they need when they need it.

“The provisions mentioned above will go a long way to protect district families. It is not enough to simply deal with domestic violence as it occurs but people who are hurt by it need to know there are resources available to them that will make it possible for them to rebuild their lives,” said the Congressman, “Moreover this bill funds programs to greatly improve the training for first responders and those who are on the front lines in the war on drugs. This bill will make a real difference in people’s lives, which is why I am so proud to support it and vote for it.”

The bill also enacts important measures that will help us keep our streets safe and invest in our future by focusing on science and energy programs. Specifically, the bill does the following:

Keeping Our Streets Safe: With fresh evidence that the violent crime rate has risen for the second straight year, the bill rejects the President’s proposal to slash the COPS program by 94 percent. The bill rejects this cut – and instead provides \$725 million, \$183 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as: \$100 million for the COPS hiring program; \$175 million for expanding DNA analysis and forensic crime lab capacity; and \$85 million for beefing up

enforcement in “meth hot spots,” places where meth is a serious problem. The President’s budget also proposed eliminating Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, a formula grant program. The bill rejects this elimination – and instead provides \$600 million for these grants. The bill provides \$400 million for juvenile justice programs, \$62 million above 2007. This includes funding for such items as \$100 million for competitive youth mentoring grants; \$81 million for delinquency prevention grants; and \$60 million for Justice Accountability Block Grants.

The President’s budget proposes eliminating funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance program (SCAAP), which assists state and local governments with the costs of jailing undocumented immigrants who have committed crimes not related to their immigration status. The bill rejects this elimination – instead providing \$405 million for 2008. It also provides \$430 million, or \$48 million above 2007, for programs to reduce violence against women, and to strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Commitment to American Innovation: The bill includes \$28 billion, \$1 billion above the President’s request, for science and science education as part of the Innovation Agenda to keep America competitive in the global market. The measure provides \$80 million more than the President’s request, putting the National Science Foundation on track to double over the next 10 years in order to ensure the U.S. maintains its position as a global leader in scientific research and technology. This includes supports for quality math and science education including scholarships to encourage young scientists to become math and science teachers. It also rejects the President’s cuts and invests 23 percent above 2007 to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology. Specifically, it rejects the President’s termination of Advanced Technology Program (ATP) for investments in early-stage, innovative technologies, research to solve manufacturing problems and initiatives to develop new technologies for commercial use. The measure also rejects the President’s 57 percent cut in the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) to help small and mid-size manufacturers compete globally by providing them with everything from plant modernization to employee training to advanced manufacturing technologies.

Combating Global Climate Change: This bill rejects the President’s cuts and instead provides \$1.9 billion for initiatives including: a National Academies’ Climate Change Committee to investigate issues and make recommendations to address Global Climate Change; for advance climate change sensors at NASA (Total Solar Irradiance Sensors) and NOAA (Earth Radiation Budget Sensor) to continue long-term climate data records essential to understanding global climate change; and an incentive program to assist businesses in new strategies to combat global warming. The measure also restores a majority of the President’s cuts and includes funds to protect the land surrounding our nation’s coasts and estuaries.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.